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SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN VIEWS IN ADVANCE OF THE GAERC

REF: 6/4/09 EUR ERA EMAIL

Polchief met June 10 with Klaus Famira, MFA European  
Correspondent, to discuss the upcoming GAERC. Famira offered  
the following views:

-- Syria: GAERC participants will discuss whether to move  
forward with the EU-Syria Association Agreement, taking into  
account Syria's generally hands off approach to the Lebanese  
elections. However, they are expected to put off any final  
decisions until a subsequent GAERC.

-- Cuba: During the annual Cuba review, GAERC participants  
will discuss a range of issues that will include human rights  
concerns. There is broad agreement to continue the EU-Cuba  
dialogue, but the EU is divided among "hardliners," who want  
to apply greater pressure on issues such as political  
prisoners, and "moderates," like Austria, who favor a more  
"patient" approach. Famira does not expect the discussion to  
result in any changes to EU Cuba policy.

-- Western Balkans: GAERC participants will discuss a report  
by ICTY Chief Prosecutor Brammertz indicating that Serbia's  
cooperation with the ICTY has improved, while Croatia's has  
declined. The EU will adopt a statement with language  
declaring that the transition in Bosnia from the Office of  
the High Representative to an EU Special Representative could  
take place by the end of the year "if conditions are met."

-- Burma: Participants will discuss the arrest of Aung San  
Suu Kyi. The EU has prepared a statement that will be  
released when the court issues a verdict in her case.

ORDWAY